

## ***Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program***



# **Islands Trust**

## **2013 Nominee Profile**

### **Dr. Peter Carter and Julie Johnston, North Pender Island**

<b>Category:</b>	Individual
<b>Project:</b>	Climate change education and leadership
<b>Nominator(s):</b>	Amanda Griesbach
<b>Letters of Support:</b>	N/A

#### **Project Description:**

Dr. Peter Carter and Julie Johnston are a couple who are dedicated to educating others about sustainability issues and climate change. Peter healed the people on Pender when he was the family doctor, and now he tries to heal the planet. He has been studying and synthesizing the global warming and climate change research for over 20 years, and presents on climate change and health and food security issues locally and at conferences around the world.

Recently, Dr. Carter founded the Climate Emergency Institute and he is the lead physician with Climate Change Emergency Medical Response. Peter is a founding member of AMEG: Arctic Methane Emergency Group and has corresponded with world leaders and top climate scientists about the climate change emergency, the Arctic methane time bomb, and threats to global and regional food security.

Julie is the resource teacher for Pender School's Spring Leaves Family Learning program and is a sustainability education consultant with GreenHeart Education who has consulted with teachers around the world on environmental education, with a focus on climate change education for learners of all ages

Julie Johnston has taught about sustainability issues and climate change to many teachers both locally and regionally at conferences and workshops. As a nature educator, Julie has touched the lives of many children and parents on North and South Pender Islands as the leader of the Gulf Islands Centre for Ecological Learning's Nature and Garden camps in the summer, and co-leader of Ptarmigan Music and Theatre Society's Art and Nature Program. Julie has also started a garden at the local elementary school for students to learn about gardening and food.

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## **2013 Nominee Profile**

### **Mike Hoebel, Galiano Island**

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Bird monitoring programs on Galiano Island
- Nominator(s):** Keith Erickson
- Letters of Support:** N/A

#### **Project Description:**

For more than 20 years, Mike Hoebel has worked tirelessly to monitor bird populations and maintain bird observation data on Galiano Island. He coordinates annual Christmas bird counts, organizes hummingbird monitoring over the spring and summer months and leads annual spring bird walks. He also works with the Mayne Island Conservancy Society and the Galiano Conservancy Association as a steward for the Active Pass Important Bird Area. Mike's work has helped to provide an information baseline for bird populations on Galiano and ongoing annual inventories of various bird species.

Mike acts as a liaison between local birders and Bird Studies Canada for the Active Pass Important Bird Area and the Annual Christmas Bird Count and has brought many new birders into the flock through his welcoming attitude and passion for birds. Mike has connected the many diverse groups and hundreds of volunteers on Galiano by drawing people of different backgrounds into bird monitoring. He provides islanders with a forum to get to know each other that isn't threatening or controversial. Mike's efforts in long-term monitoring of biodiversity help islanders to understand how island ecosystems are changing in the face of shifting climatic conditions. Mike's contribution to the migratory bird species data pool provides important insight into the impacts of climate change on complex regional and continental linkages and relationships.

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## **2013 Nominee Profile**

### **Patrick Smith, South Pender Island**

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Musical healing and leadership in the Southern Gulf Islands
- Nominator(s):** Pender Islands Trust and Protection Society
- Letters of Support:** N/A

#### **Project Description:**

Patrick Smith came to Pender Island at the age of 24 in 1973, and has been playing music there and giving back to the community ever since. Perched on rocks near Brooks Point or walking through the Enchanted Forest, you might be lucky to hear the Pied Piper of Pender playing on his penny whistle. As founder and Artistic Director of Ptarmigan Music and Theatre Society, Patrick plays music, teaches music and creates programs that heal through music, theatre, and the arts. He created a \$30,000 musical instrument bank for students and adults on Pender Island. Ptarmigan offers the Art and Nature Program for children and also Artists in the School programs. This year, Ptarmigan is organizing the 5th Annual Island Mosaic Festival. Ptarmigan, now in its 22nd year, also offers live musical programs for seniors in Victoria (for which Patrick plays) and programs for children with serious illnesses in cooperation with the Canadian Cancer Society and the BC Children's Hospital. Through the Ptarmigan Society (a registered charity), Patrick raises money to deliver community arts programs inexpensively or for free so they will be accessible to people with disabilities and disadvantages.

Patrick Smith has enhanced the cultural life on all the Southern Gulf Islands, and provided healing and accessible arts programs to many children and adults on the Gulf Islands, Vancouver and Victoria. He is currently Vice President of the Assembly of BC Arts Councils.

Patrick works with a wide variety of artists, community organizers, teachers, and children and adults from Pender, and island communities. Through music, Patrick connects and inspires people to enjoy inter-generational and inter-island projects. His work has enriched the lives of seniors, people with disabilities, and survivors of cancer.

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# Islands Trust

## **2013 Nominee Profile**

### **Jill Treewater, Salt Spring Island**

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Promoting public participation in island governance
- Nominator(s):** Julia Lucich, Elizabeth Nickson, David Paton, Valerie van de Wint, and Jane Talbot
- Letters of Support:** N/A

#### **Project Description:**

Jill Treewater took the initiative to video record meetings of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee and the Islands Trust Council. Using her own time and money she dedicated many hours recording meetings and then dividing the videos into easily identifiable segments which she posted to the website, IslandsTAGTeam (Islands Transparency and Accountability in Governance). Through this process she consistently championed the value of transparency in democracy and as a result of her work she enabled greater access to the proceedings by members of the public.

Jill's recordings have fostered greater participation in island governance. Meetings of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee and the Islands Trust Council are held during the day which can be a barrier to attendance for some members of the public. Making local government meeting proceedings accessible online supports public understanding of local issues and perspectives. Jill's role in building and monitoring the *Islands Transparency and Accountability in Government Team* website has created new channels and opportunities for information sharing between island communities. By connecting island residents online, people have become more informed about and involved in island governance and Islands Trust Area issues. She has also helped islanders throughout the Trust Area conserve resources that would otherwise be needed for people to drive and ride ferries to meet in person.

One outcome of Jill's initiative is that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee has been audio recording its meetings and posting the sound files to the Islands Trust website.

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# **Islands Trust**

## **2013 Nominee Profile**

### **Bowen Island Golf Association**

- Category:** Group
- Project:** Creation of a public nine-hole golf course
- Nominator(s):** Robert “Bruce” Russell
- Letters of Support:** Jean Cleator; Adam Zubec and Brett Finlayson, Capilano Golf and Country Club; Constable Mike Reid, Bowen Island RCMP

#### **Project Description:**

The Bowen Island Golf Association, a non-profit society, brought the Bowen Island community together to support the planning, construction and ongoing operation of a public nine-hole golf course which opened for play in 2006. More than 550 individuals, on an island with fewer than 3,500 residents, raised almost four million dollars for construction of the course and ongoing improvements. Annually, there are two or three volunteer work parties of more than 40 people to assist with improvements and maintenance. The project continues to be an important venue for social gatherings on Bowen and non-golfers who enjoy the 2.5 kilometre walking trail around the perimeter of the course.

During construction of the golf course, the Bowen Island Golf Association undertook some stream rehabilitation within the course boundaries and installed a 10.8 million gallon reservoir to collect rain water for irrigation. The Bowen Island Golf Association checks stream water quality annually and uses computerized irrigation to minimize water use. During construction, the Association used a special fan to accelerate the burning of wood waste from the project, thereby reducing the release of particulate matter and smoke into the air. The course provides year-round local employment for two people and employs 12-15 people through the summer months. The course benefits Bowen Island’s economy by attracting non-local golfers and tourists to the island.

The final component of the golf course project was completed in May 2012 with the official opening of a modest clubhouse. The Association developed the clubhouse from a recycled former portable classroom; winning first prize in the 2012 Modular Building Institute of North America’s Awards of Distinction for Greatest Renovation under 10,000 square feet. In 2012, the BC Professional Golfers Association chose the course as the 3<sup>rd</sup> best hidden gem in the province.

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**Islands Trust**

**2013 Nominee Profile**

**Denman Island Volunteer Fire Department**

**Category:** Group

**Project:** Serving and protecting Denman Island

**Nominator(s):** Denman Island Residents Association

**Letters of Support:** N/A

**Project Description:**

The Denman Island Volunteer Fire Department works constantly to protect the community in case of fires, accidents or medical emergencies. They are dedicated to regular weekly training and have organized an auxiliary group of volunteers to drive the fire trucks to fires. The Fire Department also has first responders to attend any accident or medical emergency.

The Denman Island Volunteer Fire Department hosts a pancake breakfast every July 1<sup>st</sup> and organizes a charity auction every second year. Both events are well attended and raise funds which are used to support worthy causes in the community. Most recently the auction generated approximately \$5,000 which was given to the community hall to help replace the hardwood floor as part of a major renovation. The Fire Department maintains regular communication with community members by attending monthly public Residents Association meetings to explain or discuss concerns regarding fire-related issues that may have occurred during the month.

In 2012, the department launched a well-attended series of workshops on cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) that were offered free of charge to any community member.

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**Islands Trust**

### **2013 Nominee Profile**

#### **Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society**

<b>Category:</b>	Group
<b>Project:</b>	Leadership on water issues on Salt Spring Island
<b>Nominator(s):</b>	Salt Spring Island Conservancy
<b>Letters of Support:</b>	N/A

#### **Project Description:**

The Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society has been promoting the protection and preservation of potable water sources on Salt Spring Island for 31 years; making it the oldest environmental group on the island. The Society acquires and manages land for the purpose of protecting drinking water on Salt Spring Island; promotes scientific studies and research into water issues; and raises public awareness of the value of protecting potable drinking water sources and water resources in general. The most demanding of their projects is the ongoing management of the 272-acre watershed preserve on the slopes west of St. Mary Lake, which they own. Management of this property includes working with neighbouring property owners, fencing, dealing with broom and other invasive plants, and land restoration. The Society has also ensured the permanent protection of these properties with a conservation covenant, established in 2008.

Examples of its projects include: working with the Salt Spring Island Water Council and others to produce a brochure on St. Mary Lake's water quality challenges; making submissions to the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee on the proposed Riparian Area Regulations and a current collaboration to support a Simon Fraser university hydrogeological study of the impacts of climate change on Salt Spring Island's groundwater resources. In 2002, the Water Preservation Society worked with others to raise \$1.2 million used to purchase the primary and secondary watersheds of Maxwell Lake, which is now owned and managed by the North Salt Spring Water District.

The Society's commitment to safe drinking water has been felt far beyond Salt Spring Island. From 1984-1994, the Society fought a legal battle to keep gasoline motors off St. Mary's Lake that ended in a Supreme Court of Canada decision that enabled local communities across Canada to declare lakes as 'electric motor only' for the purpose of preventing pollution.